



# Arbitrator News

Monthly Newsletter for the Juvenile Arbitration  
Program of  
Aiken, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties

Newsletter Date: September 2022

## Did You Know:

Children's Trust of South Carolina and the Annie E. Casey released the 2022 KIDS COUNT Data Book.

- Twelve percent of children in South Carolina have reported experiencing depression or anxiety in 2020, a 55% increase from 2016.
- South Carolina is one of six states that saw an increase of more than 50% in children's anxiety or depression from 2016 to 2020. Other states with significant increases include Alaska, Arkansas, California, Massachusetts and South Dakota; the District of Columbia also saw such an increase.

Thank you to all of our community partners and volunteers who make the Juvenile Arbitration Program so successful. As we approach fall, we reflect on our summer activities, including: Aiken State Park Community Service Day, ACTS Community Service Day, Alcohol and Drug Class, and Cooking Matters.



## Service Center



Thank you to the amazing team of the Aiken County Service Center for their support of the Juvenile Arbitration Program.

From scheduling trainings and meetings, to helping families learn about county services, the Service Center helps make a wonderful impact in our community.

## Brothers and Sisters



Youth participating with the Juvenile Arbitration Program have been hard at work turning their community service hours into different community projects including organizing an after-school snack surprise for youth at Brothers and Sisters.

Thank you to all of our youth, families and staff at Brothers and Sisters who have worked hard to make community service possible.

## Arbitration on the Move

Nina Spinelli sits on the Aiken Community Service Network Council and helps promote community events and knowledge to help best support the community.





## Community Opportunity



# CSRA LEARN2EARN VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

## EARN UP TO \$1,000 IN 5 WEEKS!

### WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THIS PROGRAM?

Throughout the **5 weeks** of this program, you will complete a series of **30 online training modules** and **15 virtual webinars** that will help prepare you to jump into the workforce or continued education. This program will focus on **resume building, career readiness, professionalism, and financial literacy.**

To participate in this program, you will be expected to **actively participate in webinars, complete training modules by due dates, and follow the guidelines laid out in the handbook.**



Scan here to get started, email us at [worksourcecsra@csrarc.ga.gov](mailto:worksourcecsra@csrarc.ga.gov), or call us at

**706-210-2072!**

### TO QUALIFY FOR THIS PROGRAM YOU MUST:

- be between the ages of 16-24;
- have reliable access to a computer and the internet;
- be a resident of Burke, Jefferson, Jenkins, or Richmond County;
- be unemployed or underemployed;
- NOT be enrolled in secondary or post-secondary school;
- be able to work independently with little guidance;
- be seeking resume-building activities and guidance; and
- meet our eligibility requirements.

## Office of the Attorney General's Office



Thank you to Emma Rush with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office and Arbitrator-in-Training Bruce Jordan for leading the Internet Safety and Social Media Class for youth this month.

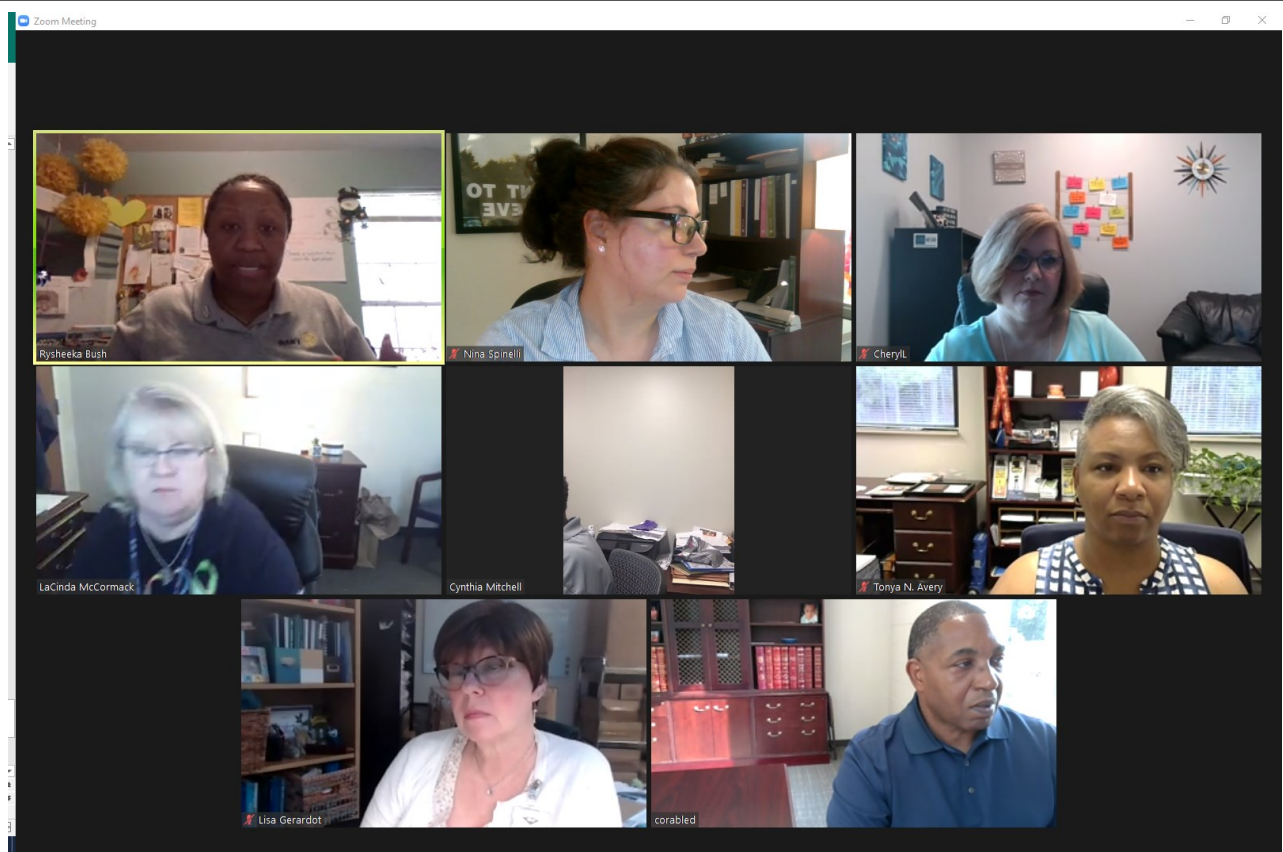
The South Carolina Attorney General serves as South Carolina's Chief Prosecutor, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief Securities Officer. The Office includes a Legal Services Division, which includes securities, tobacco & general litigation, consumer protection & antitrust litigation, and special litigation; an Opinions Division; a Criminal Prosecution Division, which prosecutes a wide array of crimes and includes separate sections which handle the prosecution of cases from the State Grand Jury, Violence Against Women, Medicaid Recipient Fraud, Internet Crimes Against Children, Sexually Violent Predators, Medicaid Provider Fraud and Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults; a Criminal Litigation Division, which includes criminal appeals, and post-conviction relief.

## Wagener-Salley High School

Thank you to the amazing team of the Wagener–Salley High School Guidance Department for all their support in making the Juvenile Arbitration Program so successful.



## Aiken County Suicide Prevention Coalition



The Coalition for Suicide Prevention of Aiken County is committed to preventing suicide through community education and collaboration.

Most people who complete suicide don't want to die - they just want to stop hurting. They may not ask for help, but that doesn't mean that help isn't wanted. Suicide prevention starts with recognizing the warning signs and taking them seriously. Don't be afraid to bring up the subject if you think a friend or family member is considering suicide. Talking openly about suicidal thoughts and feelings can save a life.

Members of the coalition include:

- Helping Hands
- Juvenile Arbitration
- Aiken Center
- Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health
- Poly Best Center
- Office of the Coroner





## Community Opportunity

Thank you to Marilyn Harris with Children's Place for organizing Strengthening Families.



## Community Opportunity



# FREE Strengthening Families Program

### LEARN HOW TO:

Listen more and yell less.

Prevent behavior problems.

Improve your relationship with your kids.

Build stronger relationships in your family.

Better manage stress.

Open to ALL families with a child who is age 6-11.

Join us! Parents and their children are invited to participate in a 7-week and 14-session virtual series of interactive, fun, family nights.

**Orientation: August 23, 2022**

**Start Date: August 30, 2022**

**Time: 6:30-8:00 (Zoom sessions)**

**Location: VIRTUAL**

### SFP Graduation

Families that complete the program will participate in a graduation ceremony and receive a certificate of completion.

### Other Benefits

- FREE gifts and raffle prizes
- Gas cards to help with transportation to meet site coordinator weekly for supplies

### Sign up here:

<https://www.childrensplaceinc.org/sfp>

**AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST 12 FAMILIES ONLY!**

### PROGRAM MEETING DATES:

August 23- Orientation  
August 30

September 6

September 8

September 13

September 15

September 20

September 22

September 27

September 29

October 4

October 6

October 11

October 13

October 18 Graduation

Contact Children's Place for more information:

310 Barnwell Ave. NE, Aiken, SC 29801

**(803) 641-4144**



**Children's**  
PLACE, INC.

  
**Children's Trust**  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



## Youth CHalleNGe Academy

The current cycle of the Youth CHalleNGe Academy is underway. Youth participating in the program have a chance to pursue their education while building valuable leadership skills.





## Youth CHalleNGe Academy

The mission of the Youth CHalleNGe Academy is "to empower and prepare youth to develop personal, academic and career success through education, mentoring, and training."



## Community Service

Youth participating with the Juvenile Arbitration Program have been hard at work turning their community service into unique projects — including providing a Back-to-School Pizza Party for youth at the After School Center.





## Community Opportunity



# Eviction Representation Available

- Suffered a COVID related financial hardship?
- At risk of being evicted?
- Received a notice of rental nonpayment?
- Been served eviction papers by magistrate's court?
- Have an eviction court hearing date set?
- Gotten a notice to move out?

If you are facing eviction  
**you may be eligible for free legal help**  
from South Carolina Legal Services

How to Apply:

1-888-346-5592

Online at [lawhelp.org/sc/online-intake](https://lawhelp.org/sc/online-intake)  
or by scanning the QR code.



## Arbitration on the Move

Thank you to Arbitrator Julie Stutts for all of her amazing support of the Juvenile Arbitration Program. From holding hearings to help with events, Julie helps make the difference.





## Aiken State Park

Thank you to Park Ranger Aaron Chavous for all of his tremendous work and support of the Juvenile Arbitration Program. Aaron is transitioning to a new park and we all wish him well.



## Arbitrator Update by Bruce Jordan

On August 8, 2022, a class was presented on the topic of Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying at the Lessie Price Center in Aiken, SC. The one and a half hour session was offered for nine participants in the Juvenile Arbitration Program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, for whom this class was a sanction assigned for them to complete.

The program consisted of an informative audio-visual presentation by Emma Rush, MSW, of the Attorney General's Office for the State of South Carolina. Ms. Rush queried the juveniles about what types of social media platforms they engaged with, and emphasized the hazards of indiscriminately posting identifying information for all to see. She reminded them that the information these kids put out, winds up establishing their brands, and their identities, which will result in others making judgments about them, including schools, future employers and even predators seeking to ensnare minors. Rush offered examples of many different subjects which social media users should always refrain from posting.

The juveniles were told that in addition to 'in-person' bullying, data shows that at least 3 out of 20 individuals are subjected to cyber-bullying. Given the number of young people who regularly use social media, 15% of that population yields a significant number of victims. Ms. Rush offered suggestions on how to avoid participating in bullying and how to seek help if an individual might become the object of bullying.

The majority of attendees actively engaged in class, sharing their own experiences, and asking questions for greater clarity. Much of the mission of the Juvenile Arbitration Program is focused on having young people learn to think, before acting, and thus make better decisions. The instruction they received on that Monday morning clearly left them better equipped to accomplish that behavior.





## Suicide Prevention Summit



**AIKEN-BARNWELL SUICIDE  
PREVENTION COALITION  
PRESENTS**



# 2022 SUICIDE PREVENTION SUMMIT

## Theme: From Burnout to Resiliency

**"An integrative approach to gaining positive mental health through holistic and traditional medicine."**

**Guest Speakers: Sarah Accord & Jessie Barnes**  
Owner of Aiken Yoga & Dept. of Mental Health

**Date: Thursday, September 8th**  
**Time: 11:30am to 1:30pm**  
**Location: Lessie B. Price Center**  
**Cost of Attendance: \$25**  
**Lunch provided!**

**Register online at  
Eventbrite!**

**Or call: 803-641-4164**

**Thank you to our sponsors:**



## SECOND CIRCUIT JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAM

211 York Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801

2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit  
P.O. Drawer 3368  
Aiken, SC 29802  
[nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov)

Bill Weeks, Solicitor  
Serena McDaniel,  
Assistant Solicitor  
Nina Spinelli, Director

### Calendar of Events

Ridge Spring ACTS  
Community Service Day:  
• September 21

Victim Impact Panel:  
• October 2

Cooking Matters:  
• October 21

Aiken Acts Community  
Service Day:  
• September 17

The Insiders:  
• October 5

## Aiken Center



Thank you to the Aiken Center for hosting our Alcohol and Drug Prevention Class.

## Arbitration on the Move

Arbitrator-in-Training Bruce Jordan has been hard at work completing the sanctions that youth in Arbitration often do as part of the program. From community service events to attending classes, Bruce has jumped in — including obtaining a library card!

